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# FOREST CONTROL

by

## CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking  
with the trees."

...Karle Wilson

Milwaukee, Wis. August, 1958 No. 53

### SAUSAGE AND MASH

If there's an end  
On which I'd spend  
My last remaining cash,  
It's sausage, friend,  
It's sausage, friend,  
It's sausage, friend, and mash.

When love is dead,  
Ambition fled,  
And pleasure, lad, and Pash,  
You'll still enjoy  
A sausage, boy,  
A sausage, boy, and mash.

Sir Alan Patrick Herbert

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USING THE PLOT TAPE

The circular plot has many advantages, each of which is attained only if the cruiser uses progressive travel within the plot, and accepts certain standard techniques for the work.

1. Punch a hole through the zero end of the plot tape or fasten a surveyor's pin on a thong to it.
2. Stick the pin at the exact center of the plot, or drive a nail through the hole in the tape and into a wooden temporary or permanent plot center stake.
3. Beginning at the center of the plot where the zero end of the tape is fastened, place the tape under the arm and walk outward to the edge of the plot in a straight line. Stretch the tape tightly from the outer edge of the plot.
4. Measure out only to those trees judged to be within a few feet of the circumference of the plot; these trees are too close to the plot edge to permit optical judgment.
5. Measure directly to the tree in question and make sure the tape is straight. Never check the distance to a point which is near the tree in question, for it is impossible to judge whether a tree is in or out while standing on the circumference of the plot at one point and looking at a tree near the circumference of the plot at some other point. The eye cannot follow a curved course to its object.
6. Boundary line trees must be half in at the ground line. Be sure that the tape is exactly on the plot center when testing marginal tree positions.
7. Paint mark an "O" for out on all trees just outside of the plot boundary. This will save walking out again with the tape at remeasurement time.
8. Correct for slope within each plot using the slope gauge described in News Letter No. 23. Minor slope corrections may be made by leveling the tape by eye.
9. Plot tapes painted or enameled yellow are most readily seen on the forest floor.
10. Plot tapes may be purchased from equipment manufacturers or made out of old steel two chain tapes. Graduations on the tapes are of no value to the cruiser.

### ESTABLISHING THE SEQUENCE WITHIN THE PLOT

Plots established in the woods with the professional techniques of experts are apparent at a glance to the trained C.F.I. cruiser. On such plots you may be sure the least amount of time is expended both in establishment and in remeasurement.

1. Begin measuring the tree nearest to the center of the plot and approximately north of the plot center.
2. Circle tree number one with paint so that it can easily be found at each remeasurement.
3. Visualize the plot as a wheel with spokes. Measure northward from the first tree on one spoke of the imaginary wheel and work back again toward the center of the plot on the next spoke, moving clockwise about the plot in this manner.
4. Do not take trees helter-skelter. Always move toward the nearest adjacent tree, using progressive travel with no back tracking. Remember that the same trees must be located and remeasured many times. It is wise to save steps at plot installation time.
5. When the plot is completed, and all of the trees have been measured, stand in the plot center and check for missed trees. You will be sure to find one on every few plots.
6. At remeasurement time pick up ingrowth trees as they occur in the plot but number them sequentially following the last tree previously numbered.
7. Avoid duplicate numbers within plots. Do not omit numbers.

State and Private Forestry  
Region 9

PREPARING THE PAINT AND MAKING THE PAINT NUMBERS

Paint numbering trees is the best and most convenient process for permanent plot installation. Numbers and DBH marks well made on dry trunks, with a good grade of paint, will remain legible for 10 years in the Lake and Central States. Professional paint numbering is the result of much practice using tried and trusted techniques.

1. The Eagle Super Oiler No. 66 is the only satisfactory paint numbering gun we have thus far found. It is manufactured by the Eagle Manufacturing Co. of Wellsburg, West Virginia. The Eagle Super Oiler holds a trifle more than a quarter pint of paint and one full gun will number about 20 trees.
2. A good grade of outside white paint is best for average conditions and for most species. Orange paint of equivalent grade is sometimes used on paper birch and aspen. Do not use cheap paint. It will not last five years.
3. To prepare the paint, first pour off a part of the oil which settles on the top of the unmixed can of paint, and then mix the paint thoroughly to the consistency of syrup. Thick paint numbers will not run when applied.
4. The nozzle of the paint gun is held about 1" from the bark of the tree when numbering. A sweep of the wrist, timed to the consistency and flow of the paint from the nozzle, will produce neat and easily readable numbers with one or two squeezes of the trigger finger. Thin paint requires quick numbering techniques.
5. Make large, thick numbers. Paint generously and well applied is never wasted.
6. Make short, straight topped marks for the DBH measuring point.
7. Numbers may be placed above or below the DBH mark as desired but it is most convenient, and the numbers are more neatly made, when placed below DBH.
8. Face all tree numbers and DBH marks toward the plot center.
9. Carry one to one and one-half quarts of paint to the woods each day, and at least two paint guns to allow for breakage and loss.
10. Carry extra tips for replacements when the nozzles clog, and two pairs of pliers to repair damaged guns.
11. Prepare the paint each night for the next day's use. Waste no time in the early morning hours getting paint ready. Straining is necessary only with lumpy, dirty or scummy paint.
12. Soak the opened paint guns in an open pail of kerosene overnight. Be sure to keep the guns clean. Trichlorethylene is a good solvent for fouled guns.
13. Place the DBH paint marks at a point on the bole which is approximately 4-1/2 feet above the ground line. Measure the diameter before painting the mark, holding the left thumb at the point of measurement so as not to lose the exact point. Make sure that there are no limbs or bumps on the trunk directly behind the DBH mark.
14. Specialized techniques for the use of the diameter tape are given in a separate circular which will be supplied on request.